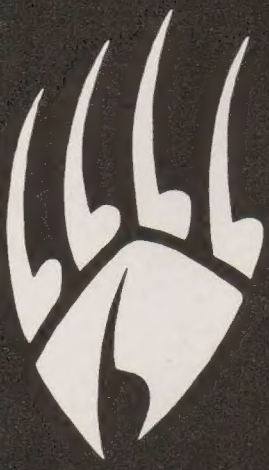
FIRST COMICS
JAN 43 1989
$1.95 $2.45 CANADA
BADGER™
BEN DIM 88+ PAUL ABRAMS

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder: Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred,* is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle. Only Badger gets better results.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

This Issue: Something stinks in Barneveld, and it's not fresh Wisconsin cheese.

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BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 43 January, 1989. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly.

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Price: $1.95 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $23.50 in the U.S., $25.50 in Canada, and $45.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual person, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. The Badger, Clonezone and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changed to **Badger**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

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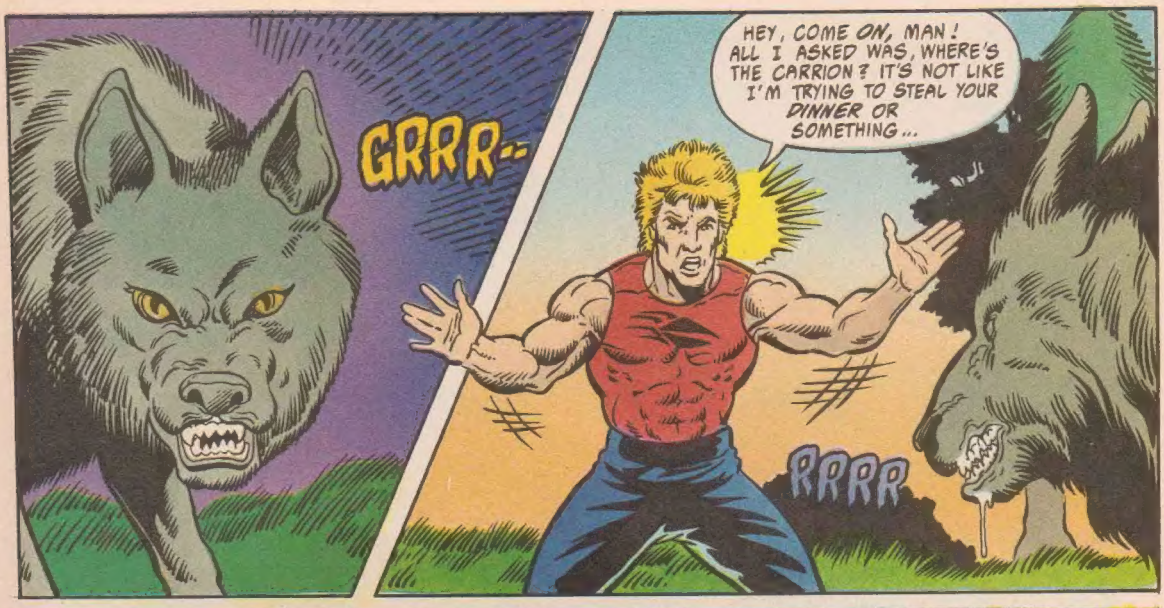
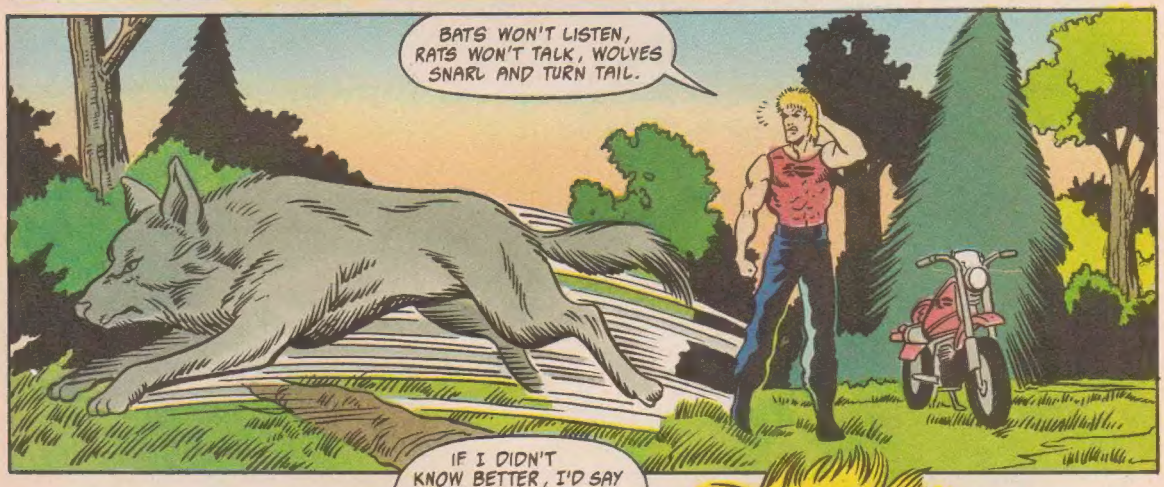
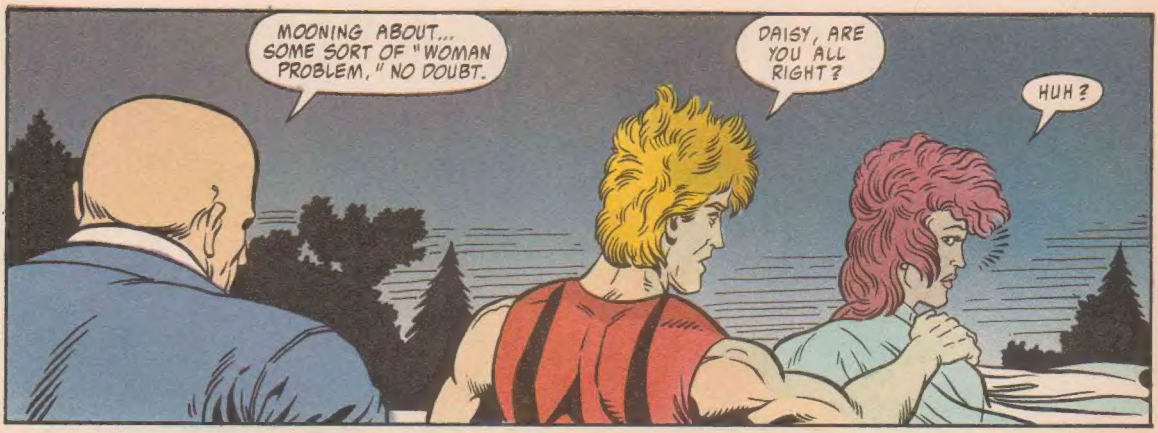




mike	ron	paul	bill	ray	larry
BARON	LIM	ABRAMS	OAKLEY	MURTAUGH	DOYLE
writer	pencil	ink	letter	paint	editor

A LOUSY, STINKIN' VAMPIRE! HAM WILL HAVE A FIT! VAMPIRES SUCK UP ALL THE PSYCHIC ENERGY-- IT'LL TURN HIS PROGNOSTICATIONS TO MUD!
HAM! HAM! GET THE STAKES AND GARLIC! WE'VE GOT A LOUSY, STINKIN' VAMPIRE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD!
CRASH
HOLY WATER AND SILVER BULLETS! WE GOT US A BLOODSUCKER ON OUR HANDS!
BE STILL, CURSE YOU! CAN'T I EVEN LOOK AT THE MARKET IN PEACE?!
ALL MY RATS ARE ACTING UP! THEY'RE NO GOOD TO ME AT ALL!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU. THE WOLVES AND BATS WON'T TALK TO ME ANY-MORE. WE'VE GOT A VAMPIRE PROBLEM.
A VAMPIRE, YOU SAY? HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THOSE IN 700 YEARS.

IT COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF THINGS... PERHAPS COUNT KOHLER IS BACK FOR A REMATCH...
IT'S A VAMPIRE, I TELL YOU! A COLD MIST SHROUDED THE MOON LAST NIGHT AND TODAY THE MILK WAS SPOILED!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A VAMPIRE?
NO, BUT I'VE SEEN ALL THEIR MOVIES.
PAH! IT COULD BE A PHENOMENOLOGICAL REARRANGEMENT OF THE SPHERES BUT I ASKED DAISY TO KEEP TRACK OF THAT ON THE COMPUTER.
ODD TO FIND HER RETIRED AT THIS HOUR...
DAISY?
YOU'D BETTER DUCK IF THAT DOOR COMES FLYING OPEN.
RAP RAP
DAISY! I ASKED YOU TO INFORM ME IF THERE WAS PHENOMENOLOGICAL RE-ARRANGEMENT OF THE SPHERES!


MOONING ABOUT... SOME SORT OF "WOMAN PROBLEM," NO DOUBT.
DAISY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH?

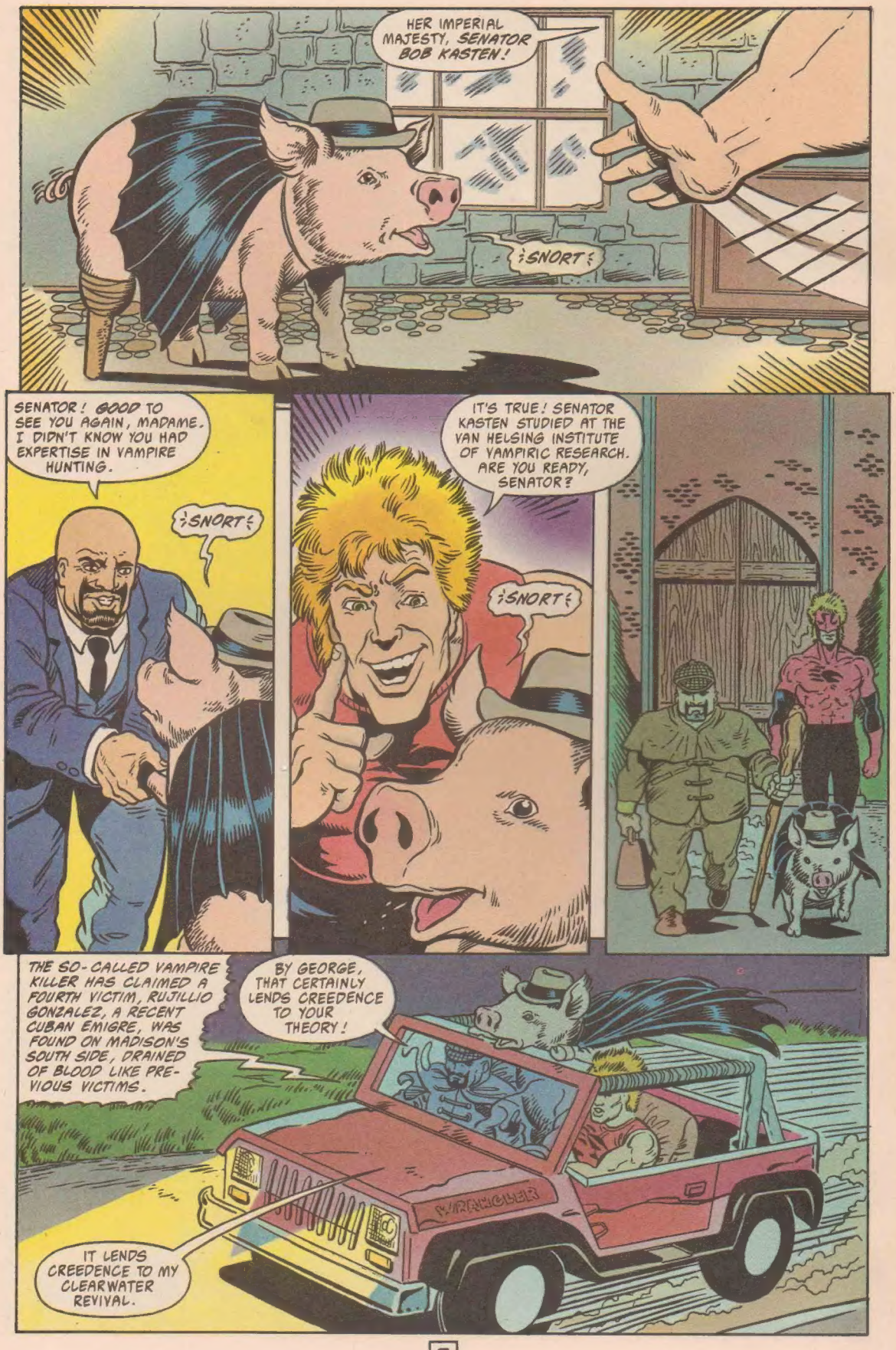
I WAS DREAMING... A BEAUTIFUL MAN SANG TO ME SO SWEETLY...
DID HE HOVER OUTSIDE THE WINDOW?
YES.

ASKED YOU TO INVITE HIM IN?
YES.
VAMPS. VAMPS OR I'M A SHEMITE.

TAKE THIS CROSS AND GARLIC -- HERE'S A MEZUZA IN CASE HE'S JEWISH -- A PAGE OF KORAN IF HE'S MUSLIM...
...AND IF HE'S A ZEN BUDDHIST YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

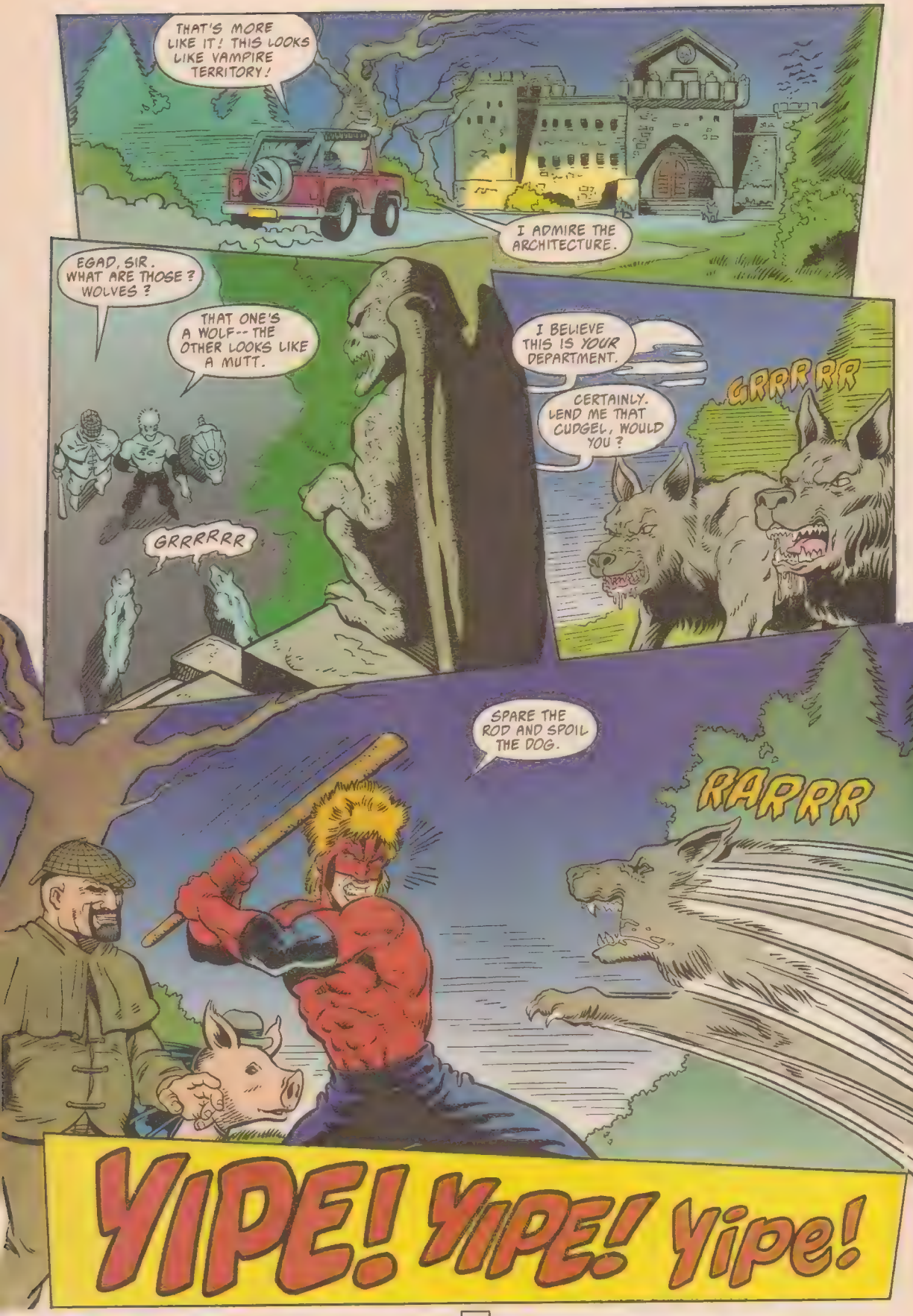
I WAS JUST HAVING A DREAM! I'M A BIG GIRL AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES! SO PUT THE GARLIC BACK IN THE KITCHEN, THE CROSS ON THE WALL, THE MEZUZA IN THE TABERNACLE, AND THE KORAN IN THE MOSQUE! I'M GOING BACK TO BED.

OKAY, BUT YOU'LL BE SORRY.
SOME PEOPLE JUST REFUSE TO BELIEVE THE FACTS. WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR OWN MEASURES TO PROTECT YOU, MS. FIELDS.
GOOD NIGHT, BOYS!
AGH! THE PRIDE! THE PASSION! NEVER HAVE WE BEEN FORCED TO GO INTO BATTLE SO UNPREPARED! NEVER HAVE WE HAD TO GO INTO BATTLE WITH SO MANY LOUSY THINGS AGAINST US!
WHAT ARE YOU RAVING ABOUT?
I'M MERELY RANTING IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER.
SEE HERE, MY GOOD FELLOW -- IF WE CAN FIND THE VAMPIRE DURING THE DAY, WHILE HE SLEEPS, I COULD CUT OUT HIS HEART AND GAIN ENOUGH MYSTIC MIGHT TO PUT US ALL IN FAT CITY FOREVER.
SIR, I'M SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY.
WELL, A MAN WITH YOUR FIGURE SHOULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT FAT CITY!
SIR! ARE YOU PREPARED TO ASSIST ME OR NOT?
I'LL HELP! AND I KNOW THE PERFECT ALLY! A CREATURE OF PEERLESS CUNNING AND ANIMAL-LIKE FEROCITY, WHO WILL LEAD US UNERRINGLY TO THE CRUMMY VAMPIRE!
THAT'S FINE, BUT A MAN WITH YOUR CHOLESTEROL LEVELS SHOULDN'T GO WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF FAT CITY!
AND WHO IS THIS MARVELOUS CREATURE?


HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY, SENATOR BOB KASTEN!
;SNORT;
SENATOR! GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MADAME. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD EXPERTISE IN VAMPIRE HUNTING.
;SNORT;
IT'S TRUE! SENATOR KASTEN STUDIED AT THE VAN HELSING INSTITUTE OF YAMPIRIC RESEARCH. ARE YOU READY, SENATOR?
;SNORT;
THE SO-CALLED VAMPIRE KILLER HAS CLAIMED A FOURTH VICTIM, RUJILLIO GONZALEZ, A RECENT CUBAN EMIGRE, WAS FOUND ON MADISON'S SOUTH SIDE, DRAINED OF BLOOD LIKE PREVIOUS VICTIMS.
BY GEORGE, THAT CERTAINLY LENDS CREEDENCE TO YOUR THEORY!
IT LENDS CREEDENCE TO MY CLEARWATER REVIVAL.

DESPITE SIMILARITIES TO THREE PREVIOUS KILLINGS, POLICE ARE DENYING THE CRIMES ARE RELATED.
WHAT? BUT THAT'S A GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING!
THE SENATOR IS SELDOM WRONG.
THE DOOR'S LOCKED. YOU'LL HAVE TO DO A SPELL.
HELL! I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO COST ME!
:SNORT:
AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH.
ZE-FO!
QUICK! TO THE FIFTH FLOOR! WE'YE GOT HIM TRAPPED!
WHAT IS A VAMPIRE DOING IN A GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING?
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
SQUEALL!
YAHH!

HELP! GUARDS! SECURITY! POLICE! MAD PIG! MAD PIG!
CRINGE, YOU FILTHY CREATURE OF THE NIGHT! WE'RE HERE TO PUT AN END TO YOUR REIGN OF TERROR!
WAIT! THE SENATOR HAS MADE AN UNDERSTANDABLE ERROR...
HE'S A BLOODSUCKER, ALL RIGHT, BUT NOT THE KIND WE'RE LOOKING FOR. THIS MAN IS AN IRS AGENT.
SIR, IF YOU HAVE A BEEF WITH YOUR RETURN, NOW IS NOT THE PROPER TIME TO FILE A GRIEVANCE.
HAM, ARE YOU SURE? THE SENATOR SEEMS CERTAIN!
TRUST ME. HE'S NOT THE MAN WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
SHORTLY.
YOU WERE RIGHT! SHE ONLY NEEDED TO CLEAR THE COBWEBS. NOW WE'LL SEE SOME VAMPIRE TRACKING!
SHE SEEMS TO BE POINTING SOUTH. VERY WELL, LET'S MOUNT UP.
DAMNATION, SIR! THIS SEAT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR THE THREE OF US!
LAKE GENEV
SQUEE!
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GET IN THE BACK AND LET SENATOR SIT THERE?


THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! THIS LOOKS LIKE VAMPIRE TERRITORY!
I ADMIRE THE ARCHITECTURE.
EGAD, SIR. WHAT ARE THOSE? WOLVES?
THAT ONE'S A WOLF-- THE OTHER LOOKS LIKE A MUTT.
GRRRRRR
I BELIEVE THIS IS YOUR DEPARTMENT.
CERTAINLY. LEND ME THAT CUDGEL, WOULD YOU?
GRRRRR
SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE DOG.
RARRR
YIPE! YIPE! Yipe!

DAISY... DAISY...
IS SOMEONE THERE? NORBERT?
DAISY, LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW... DAISY, COME TO ME...
HELLO, DAISY...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO INVITE ME IN ?
WHO ARE YOU ?

I'M EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER DREAMED ABOUT, EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER WANTED. I'M THE SEVENTH SON OF A SEVENTH SON, GENTLE AS A LAMB, STRONG AS AN OX. A ROMANTIC, SENSITIVE KIND OF GUY, UNTHREATENED BY A STRONG WOMAN...
I HAVE A MERCEDES, A PORSCHE, A FERRARI, AND A CADILLAC, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN AMERICA. I HAVE A HOUSE IN NEWPORT AND A CONDO IN ST. BARTH'S... BUT FOR ALL MY MATERIAL SUCCESS, I REMAIN REFRESHINGLY UNSPOILED, WITH A BOYISH ENTHUSIASM FOR LIFE.
WOW.
WON'T YOU INVITE ME IN?
I GUESS SO. COME ON IN. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON DONAHUE?
ALAS, I DON'T PHOTOGRAPH WELL.
REALLY? YOU'RE THE MOST GORGEOUS GUY I'VE EVER SEEN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOVERING OUTSIDE MY WINDOW?
I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
ME? WHY ME? I MEAN, I'M NOT EXACTLY THE MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELORETTE IN WISCONSIN...
ON THE CONTRARY...
I FIND YOU IRRESISTIBLE. YOUR FRESHNESS, YOUR SIMPLICITY...
HOLD IT, PAL. WHAT KIND OF GIRL DO YOU THINK I AM? COME TO THINK ABOUT IT, HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ME?

FIRST PERSON SINGULAR

Random Remarks by the Editor

WORLD WAR III: LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER

In case you missed the last World War, it was number two: the Big One, in which we dropped one, not once but twice, killed a bunch of their guys, and so we won.

That was the Good War.

The next one promises to be even better. WWIII: the War to End All Worlds. And we'll have a special preview, right after these old hoary war stories.

WWII: *Ah, I remember it well.*

Fought in my own backyard, if twenty years after, I remember World War II as the war in which G.I. Joe was a strapping 11 and one-half inches tall and fully bendable.

I remember Joe's hated enemies — G.I. Gerries and G.I. Japs we called them, back then in the enlightened Sixties. I remember too calling them krauts and gooks but respecting their axis powers, which rendered them impervious to the imaginative injuries we cruel war lords visited upon them. I remember Dresden, and being grounded that entire summer.

And I remember, especially, that the Germans had neater hand grenades than we had.

These are my war remembrances. They come swelling back to me now as I think about **Team Yankee**, the new limited series I am about to plug as: a six-issue weekly extravaganza starting Sept. 9; based on **Maj. Harold Coyle**'s New York Times Bestseller; a First-Berkley graphic novel in early 1989; and just incidently, an extraordinary piece of work.

But **Team Yankee** is also about war, and I no longer consider war as cool as I once did.

Francois Truffaut, best known as that French guy in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, once wrote that it was impossible to make an anti-war movie. He argued that film, by its very nature, depicts war as dramatic and exciting, a glory.

That may be true of comic books, too.

Consider **Team Yankee.** Coyle's scenario — a European ground war between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R — is real, sobering, unfun. **David Drake**'s adaptation is grit and true. **Rod Whigham** and **Gerald Forton**, with their smoke and fire pencils and inks, shove it all right through your eyes and into your mind.

"Francois Truffaut once wrote that it was impossible to make an anti-war movie. He argued that film, by its very nature, depicts war as dramatic and exciting, a glory. That may be true of comic books, too."

Team Yankee makes its point exceedingly well: In war, nobody wins.

And yet, when the Soviet tanks get hit, they go WHOOM! Bodies fly, and commies eat lead death throughout. Plus this time, we get to have the neatest weapons, even if they don't always discriminate.

So is **Team Yankee** anti-war? That depends. **Team Yankee** is about war the way it is. For most of you, that should be anti-war statement enough. But for a few, I'm afraid, twice is not enough. The kill will always be a thrill, and any paper war an advertisement.

If that's you, that's fine. Enjoy. But I'd also like you to remember just one thing. It's been the guiding principle of U.S. military strategy for more than a century.

Don't try this at home.

— Larry Doyle

FIRST IN SEPTEMBER

Team Yankee #1, #2 and #3. WWIII begins, and Team Yankee is there! Limited weekly series, based on Maj. Harold Coyle's bestseller. By **David Drake, Rod Whigham** and **Gerald Forton.**

Nexus #52: Nexus quits. By **Mike Baron, Paul Smith** and **John Nyberg.**

The Next Nexus #1: The Merk searches for a new Nexus. By **Mike Baron** and **Steve Rude.**

Lone Wolf and Cub #17. By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima.** Cover painting by **Bill Sienkiewicz.**

Badger #43. By **Mike Baron** and **Ron Lim.**

Evangeline #11. By **Chuck Dixon, Jim Balent** and **Ricardo Villagran.**

Dreadstar #40: Is this the end? By **Jim Starlin, Luke McDonnell** and **Val Mayerik.**

Grimjack #54. By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake.**

Whisper #20: The origin of Whisper. By **Steven Grant** and **Spyder.**

Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #9. By **Howard Chaykin, Mike Vosburg, John Moore, Richard Ory, Tony Van de Walle** and **Ken Bruzenak.**

Corum: The Bull and the Spear #1. Beginning the adaptation of the first novel in *The Chronicles of Corum.* By **Mark Shainblum** and **Jill Thompson.**

Sable #11. By **Roger Salick** and **Tristan Schane.**

HELL
See it through his eyes.
WORLD WAR III CONTINUES IN
TEAM Yankee™
Issue 4 ships Sep. 30
Issue 5 ships Oct. 7
Issue 6 ships Oct. 14
Six weekly issues
On sale in October
FIRST PUBLISHING
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BERKLEY PUBLISHING, INC.

I COME FROM A VERY OLD FAMILY... FOR SOME TIME, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT YOUNG WOMAN TO REJUVENATE THE LINEAGE.
WHAT LINEAGE?
I AM VICTOR VELITNIKOV, 38TH IN A DIRECT LINE GOING BACK TO FIFTEENTH CENTURY RUMANIA...
I MUST SAY, I LIKE THIS PLACE! IS IT YOURS?
NO, IT BELONGS TO MY BOSS, HAMILTON THORNDYKE.
MR. THORNDYKE HAS EXCELLENT TASTE. WHAT IS HIS *PROFESSION*?
INVESTMENTS, SPECULATION...
HMM. I, TOO, HAVE A CASTLE. IN LAKE GENEVA.
REALLY? DO YOU LIVE THERE ALONE?
NO, MY SISTER EUGENIA LIVES WITH ME. YOU'D LIKE EUGENIA --SHE HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR.
REALLY? HOW CAN YOU FLOAT, VICTOR? AM I DREAMING?
YOU'D LOVE EUGENIA! WHAT A *JOKER!* AND A FOX!
ALL THE GUYS ARE AFTER HER.

EUGENIA! KISS ME! BITE ME!

SSSS!
MADAME, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR A SERIES OF BLOOD DRAININGS...
LOOK AT HER! SHE'S DROOLING BLOOD! LADY, IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, SPIT IT OUT!
SSSS--
SNORT

I'M AN ILLUSIONIST, DAISY. I HAVE MANY POWERS. JOIN ME AND YOU'LL HAVE POWERS, TOO...
JOIN YOU IN WHAT? YOU'RE MOVING AWFULLY FAST FOR A GUY I FIRST SAW FLOATING OUTSIDE MY WINDOW A HALF-HOUR AGO...
YOU WILL BE MY WIFE, MY MISTRESS, MY MATE.
I WILL?
HAVEN'T YOU FELT IT?
YES...
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?
I DO...
AAAAAAA!
VICTOR! WHAT IS IT?

SSSST!
YOUUUU IDIOT! YOU GOT HER THROUGH THE SHOULDER!
ALL RIGHT, HOLD HER STEADY, DAMN IT! LET'S GET IT OVER WITH.
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THIS BEARS A DISTURBING RESEMBLANCE TO A SEXUAL ASSAULT?
BAH! YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO TOO MUCH W.O.R.T! LOOK AT HER! SHE'S SLATHERING AT THE JAWS! LOOK AT THOSE FANGS!
SO WHAT? IT'S AN IRON SPIKE! THE BOOK SAYS WE'VE GOT TO USE A WOODEN STAKE!
ISN'T THAT JUST ANOTHER SEXIST VIEW OF WOMEN, THE IMAGE OF THE FANGED VAMP, LURING MEN WITH HER BODY, THEN DRAINING THEM OF THEIR LIFEBLOOD? I MEAN, LOOK AT THE TERM VAMP!
WOULD YOU PAY ATTENTION? GRAB HER, QUICK!

I GOT HER!
I GOT HER!
ZGFOI!
AAAAA!
THE VAMPIRE IS DEAD! THE POWER IS MINE!
toko=!
CHONK!

REBIRTH

It's not John Gaunt, but it is Grimjack.

Coming in October from FIRST COMICS

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PARTY DOWN WITH

HOWARD CHAYKIN'S

AMERIKAN FLAGG!™

R.S.V.P.

#NINE

On sale in September from FIRST PUBLISHING®

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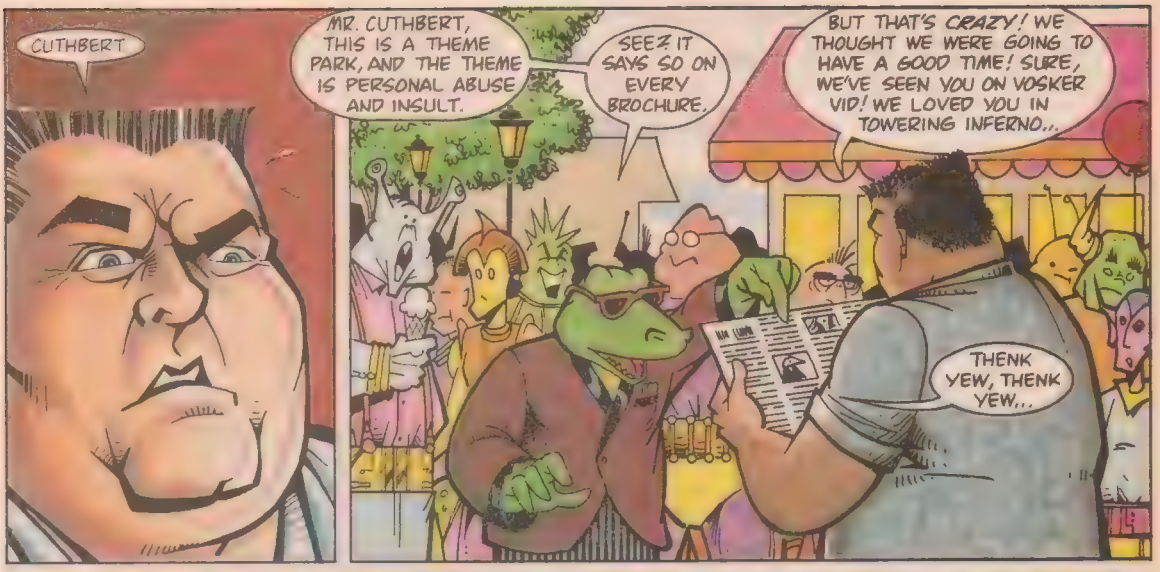
I WAS DEAD BEFORE, HAMMAGLYSTWYTH.
YOU KNOW ME?
I KNOW YOU FOR A VAIN, POMPOUS LITTLE WIZARD POSSESSED OF A FEW MEAN TRICKS...
A FEW MEAN TRICKS? SPUT--SPUTTER! I MANAGED TO STAKE YOU!
YOU HAVE ME, NOW, HAM...
BUT MY BROTHER WILL SET THINGS RIGHT. I CURSE YOU, HAM, YOUR HOUSE AND ALL WHO DWELL THEREIN!
VICTOR! AVENGE ME!
ARGH!
SHE CUT ME!
SHE CUT ME!

SHE CUT ME!
WHACK!
OKAY! OKAY! LET ME SEE. IT'S JUST A SCRATCH. HAVE YOU HAD YOUR TETANUS SHOTS?
BAH! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT BACK AT THE CASTLE. LET'S TAKE THIS VAMPIRE--I INTEND TO DISMEMBER HER IN MY SANCTUM.
WHAT'S TO DISMEMBER?
DAMNATION! SHE EVAPORATED ON ME!
I KNEW THIS WAS TOO EASY...
;SNORT!
CAN'T YOU TALK TO THEM?
IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS. WHEN THERE'S A VAMPIRE AROUND, I LOSE ALL CONTROL OF WOLVES, COYOTES, FOXES, BATS AND RATS.
RRRRRRRRRRRRRR
CALL UP SOME SNAKES THEN! ANYTHING!
I'M TRYING, BUT SOMETHING'S JAMMING MY RADAR.

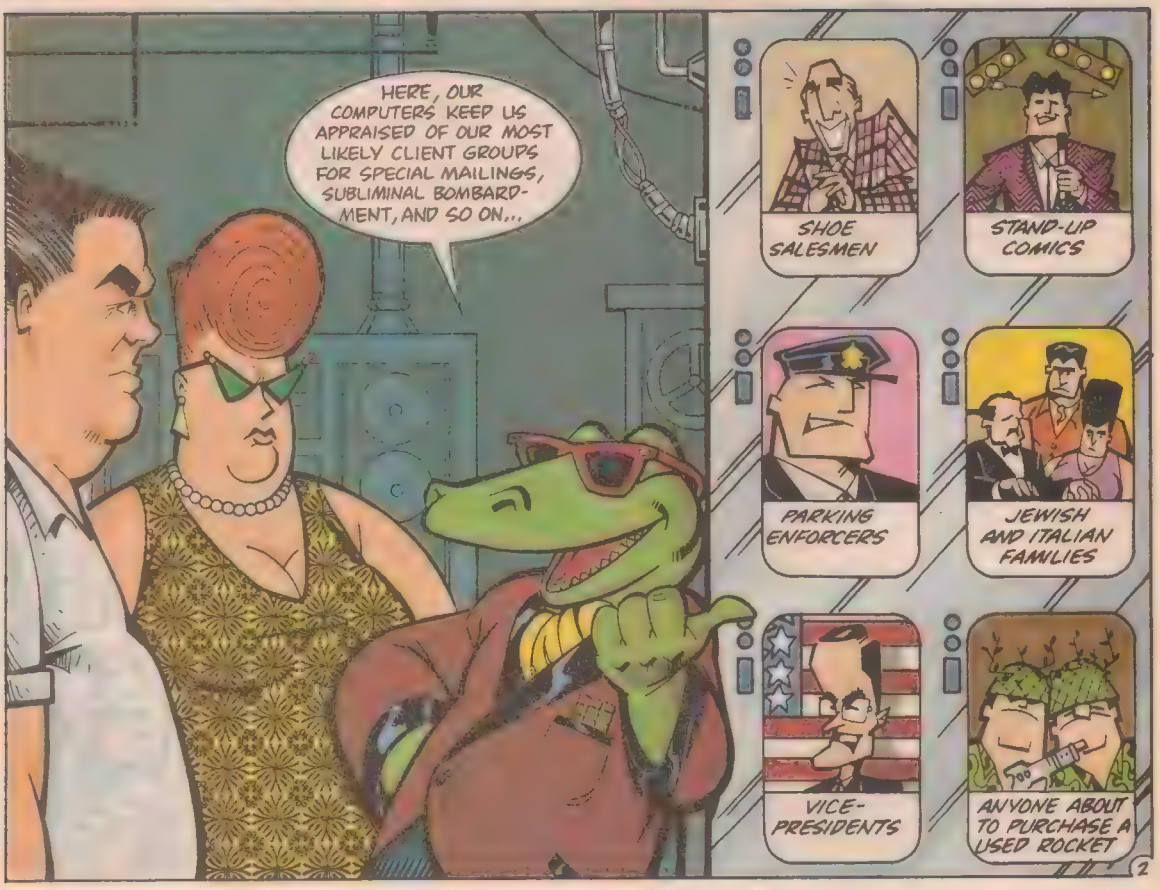
BUT WHO IS CONTROLLING THEM?
I AM, YOU MISERABLE SCUM...
PREPARE TO DIE.

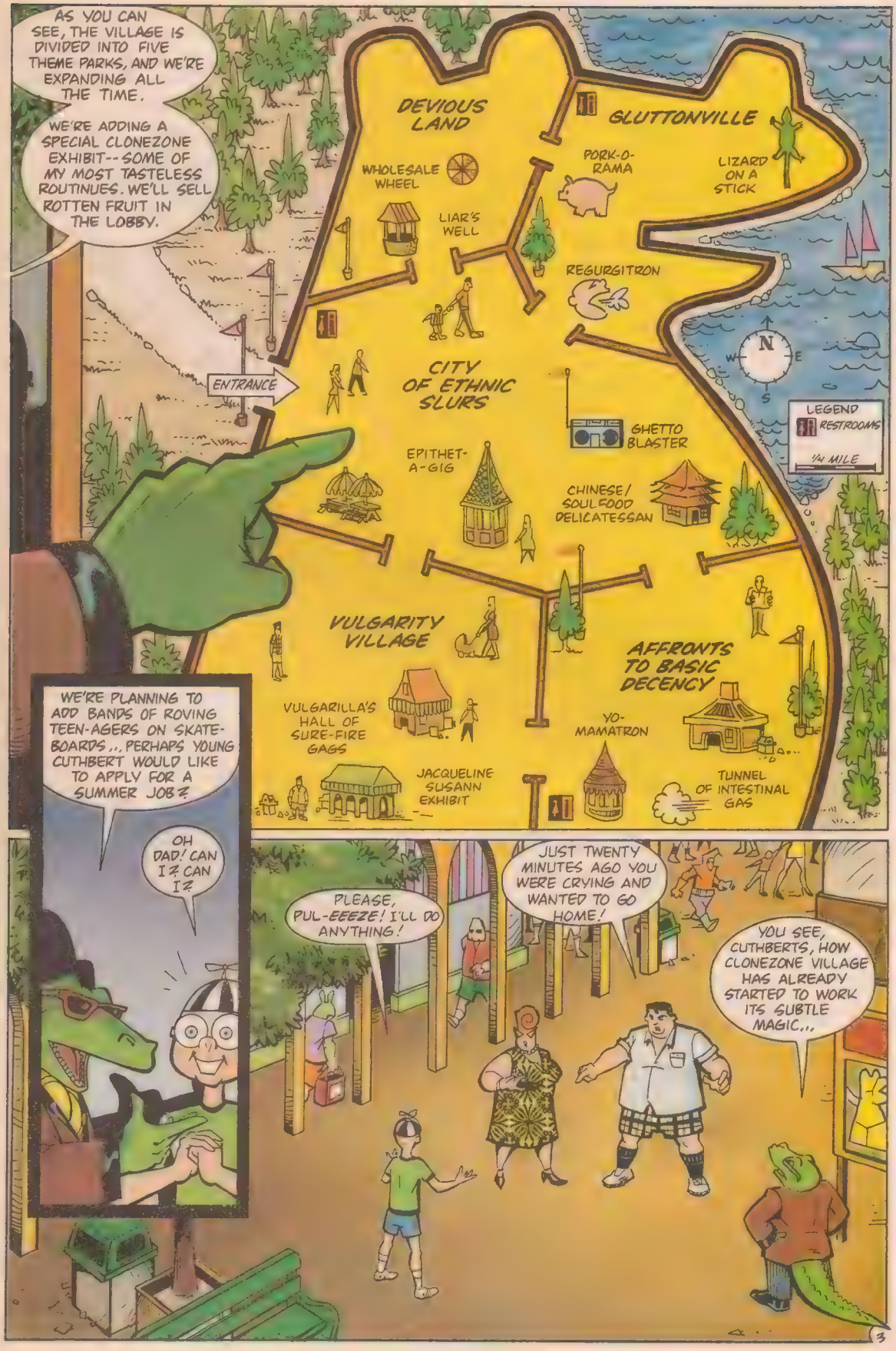
CONTINUED...

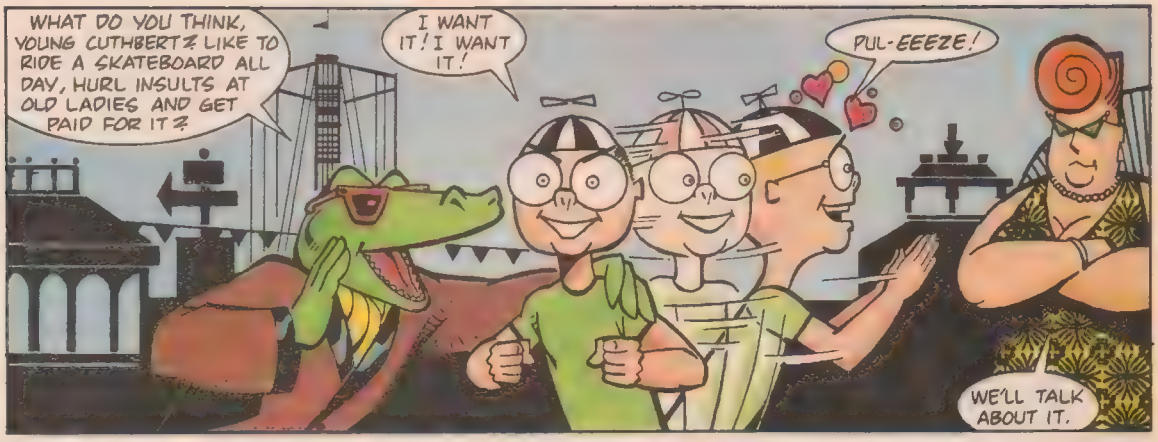
welcome to
CLONEZONE Village
A THEME PARK DEVOTED TO PERSONAL INSULTS AND ABUSE
MIKE BARON / STORY
JIM ROHN / ART + COLOR
GARY FIELDS / LETTERS
LARRY DOYLE / EDITS
WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS THAT MALICIOUS REPTILE? I DEMAND TO SEE HIM!
TURN AROUND AND DON'T YOU RUSH-- OR I WILL POP YOU IN THE MUSH!
CLONE-ZONE VILLAGE
YOU ARE HERE
OFFICE
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JACQUES. I SEE THAT THE GENTLEMAN HAS SUFFERED GRIEVOUSLY. WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, SIR?
WE'VE BEEN SPAT UPON AND DOUSED WITH DIRT! PARK EMPLOYEES CALLED US NAMES!
BUT OF COURSE. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
WE DEMAND OUR MONEY BACK!
BUT SIR IS UNDER A MISAPPREHENSION AS TO THE PURPOSE OF CLONEZONE VILLAGE. WHAT IS THE NAME, SIR?
YEAH!


CUTHBERT
MR. CUTHBERT, THIS IS A THEME PARK, AND THE THEME IS PERSONAL ABUSE AND INSULT.
SEE? IT SAYS SO ON EVERY BROCHURE.
BUT THAT'S CRAZY! WE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD TIME! SURE, WE'VE SEEN YOU ON VOSKER VID! WE LOVED YOU IN TOWERING INFERNO...
THENK YEW, THENK YEW...

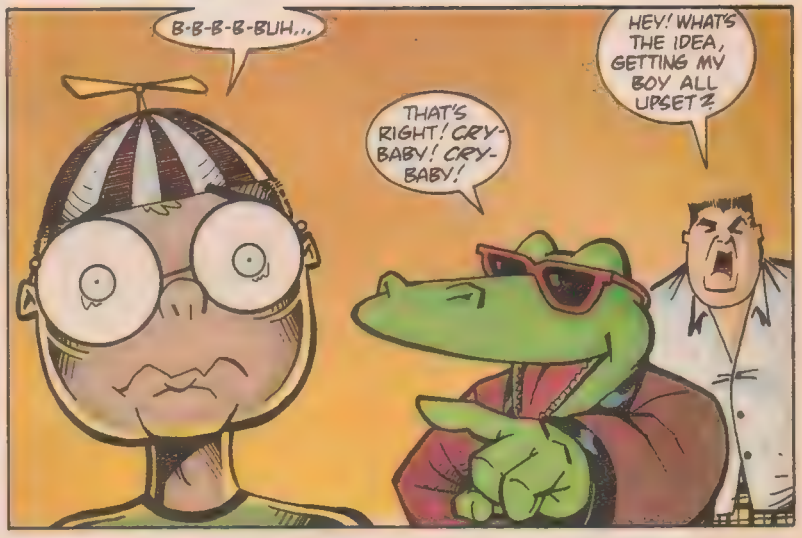
BUT WHO WOULD COME TO A PLACE JUST TO BE INSULTED?
OH, LOTS OF PEOPLE! AND NOT JUST TO GET INSULTED! COME WITH ME, CUTHBERTS. LET ME SHOW YOU.
THIS BETTER BE GOOD!


HERE, OUR COMPUTERS KEEP US APPRAISED OF OUR MOST LIKELY CLIENT GROUPS FOR SPECIAL MAILINGS, SUBLIMINAL BOMBARDMENT, AND SO ON...
SHOE SALESMEN
STAND-UP COMICS
PARKING ENFORCERS
JEWISH AND ITALIAN FAMILIES
VICE-PRESIDENTS
ANYONE ABOUT TO PURCHASE A USED ROCKET


AS YOU CAN SEE, THE VILLAGE IS DIVIDED INTO FIVE THEME PARKS, AND WE'RE EXPANDING ALL THE TIME.
WE'RE ADDING A SPECIAL CLONEZONE EXHIBIT--SOME OF MY MOST TASTELESS ROUTINUES. WE'LL SELL ROTTEN FRUIT IN THE LOBBY.
DEVIOUS LAND
GLUTTONVILLE
WHOLESALE WHEEL
PORK-O-RAMA
LIZARD ON A STICK
LIAR'S WELL
REGURGITRON
ENTRANCE
CITY OF ETHNIC SLURS
N
W
E
S
LEGEND
RESTROOMS
1/4 MILE
GHETTO BLASTER
EPITHET-A-GIG
CHINESE/ SOULFOOD DELICATESSAN
VULGARITY VILLAGE
AFFRONTS TO BASIC DECENCY
VULGARILLA'S HALL OF SURE-FIRE GAGS
YO-MAMATRON
JACQUELINE SUSANN EXHIBIT
TUNNEL OF INTESTINAL GAS
WE'RE PLANNING TO ADD BANDS OF ROVING TEEN-AGERS ON SKATE-BOARDS,,, PERHAPS YOUNG CUTHBERT WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR A SUMMER JOB?
OH DAD! CAN I? CAN I?
PLEASE, PUL-EEEEZE! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
JUST TWENTY MINUTES AGO YOU WERE CRYING AND WANTED TO GO HOME!
YOU SEE, CUTHBERTS, HOW CLONEZONE VILLAGE HAS ALREADY STARTED TO WORK ITS SUBTLE MAGIC,,,


WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOUNG CUTHBERT? LIKE TO RIDE A SKATEBOARD ALL DAY, HURL INSULTS AT OLD LADIES AND GET PAID FOR IT?
I WANT IT! I WANT IT!
PUL-EEEZE!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.

FORGET IT, KID. I DON'T HIRE WHINY LITTLE SNOT-NOSED BASTARDS LIKE YOU.
HUH?


B-B-B-B-BUH...
THAT'S RIGHT! CRY-BABY! CRY-BABY!
HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA, GETTING MY BOY ALL UPSET?

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, CUTHBERT? THIS WHOLE PARK IS AN EXTENSION OF MY EGO... AND I GET OFF BY MAKING FUN OF DUMB JERKS LIKE YOU!
OH YEAH?

WELL GET OFF ON THIS!

DO NOT GET ME IN-BETWEEN-- ON ZONE YOU MUST NOT VENT YOUR SPLEEN.
THEY ALL WANT TO TAKE A POKE AT THE ZONE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THEM, MR. CLONE-ZONE?
HAVE THEM TARRED AND FEATHERED AND KICK THEM OUT.
PLEASE, MR. ZONE! LET US GO! WE PROMISE NOT TO COMPLAIN! WE ONLY WANTED TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!
MADAME, YOUR PLEA HAS TOUCHED ME DEEPLY. NEVERTHELESS...
THERE HE IS!
OFFICE
THERE'S MY EVIL CLONE, WHO ESCAPED FROM A REMOTE LAB IN THE BELT!
GLEEP!
HE'S MAKING MY LIFE A LIVING HELL, I TELL YOU! HAS HE INSULTED YOU, MADAME?
5

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS COMPLIMENTARY PASS TO OUR PORK-O-RAMA, FOLLOWED BY A SIX 'G' EXCURSION ON OUR WORLD-FAMED REGURGITRON.
WOW! THANKS, MR. CLONE-ZONE!
I KNEW IT WAS WORTHWHILE IF WE COMPLAINED!
WHAT ABOUT THE JOB, DAD? CAN I, HUH? HUH? PUH-LEEZE!?
CLONEZONE VILLAGE
KEEP OFF
STUPID SWINE.
I GUESS THIS MODEL IS READY TO GO ON DISPLAY.
I GOT A BETTER IDEA, SHOE-FACE..
I'LL TAKE OVER THE FRONT OFFICE AND YOU GO ON DISPLAY.
!
THE END.

Hey Larry,

Badger #41 really kicked butt.

And Ron Lim is some kind of awesome graphic illustrator, eh?

Uncle Elvis
17650 Dawson Road
Dawson Springs, Ky. 42408

Larry,

Yow!!! A Transsexual Nazi Nun!!! I love these terrific comic books!!!!! Thanks you for your time.

Christopher C. Gullo
23 Pin Oak Lane
Irondequoit, NY 14622

You're welcome!!!!!

Irreverent Ones,

I'm Episcopalian and I'm mad!!

Yes, I know it's a religion that teaches temperance (or at least how to look good in a suit), but irreconcilable crimes have been committed in Badger #40.

First you set a Catholic nun up as some kind of hero (detestable). Then, as if you haven't offended enough, you let Daisy give that darkly clad hussy a ride (blasphemy). Still, determined to make a spectacle, you allow the barbarian wench to voice that *agnostic* comment. I'll have you know that if the Lord hasn't already performed the holy deed, I'll personally torch your offices. I'll then spit a million luggies on the ashes of you muther's (oops) foul slime dwellings.

P.S. Otherwise I really dug this issue of the Badger, as I have all the ones before it.

John Yancura
Fresno, CA

John, for a man whose entire faith is based on the marital caprice of a morbidly obese gouty monarch, you talk a pretty devout game. No offense.

Dear Larry,

Yeah! Badger #40 was pretty cool! Talk about your cool comics... as far as I'm concerned, Badger is it! The only thing that bothered me was the dialogue of the ex-Nazi, transsexual nun — her "za," "zee," "haff," "iss," and "zem"s were more than a little irritating.

But the rest of it was great! In my opinion, the top writers in comics are Moore, Miller, DeMatties... and BARON. My friends have been debating over who deserves the fifth spot, or whether Baron even truly deserves the fourth spot.

What do you other readers think? Personally, I'd say that Denny O'Neil deserves that last spot.

Okay, dudes — New Order, Independent Comics, The Cure, Nexus, Mike Baron, Tartar sauce, Martial Arts, Mike Sewall, Echo and the Bunnymen, First Comics, and Badger... are all REAAL COOOL!

Jeff "LW" Lacasse
1516 West Cherry Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436

Your friends are debating whether Mike Baron truly deserves the fourth spot on that list? Jeff, I think need to ask yourself: Are these the type of people I want to hang around with?

I'm not saying that, at one point, they might not have been perfectly acceptable companions, but it seems to me, Jeff, that perhaps you've outgrown them. And I think you ought to make that break now, before they encourage you to spend good money on bad drugs and Peter Porker comics.

Also, as far as your other list is concerned, tartar sauce has never been cool.

Dear Mike,

I recently started buying Badger and I LIKE IT! I thought he was funny in Crossroads, and I am now adding the Badger to my must buy list.

The idea of a comic book

"I don't think I've ever enjoyed a transsexual, ex-Nazi nun story as much as I did "Sister Twyster." I think it's high time that transsexual, ex-Nazi nuns are portrayed as heroes instead of villains."

hero having a multiple personality disorder interested me. It's probably because I have a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

There is only one problem I have with the Badger. I can't find back issues fast enough!

Mike, I think you need to write a screenplay, and put the Badger on the big screen. Maybe someone like Mel Gibson could play him. He was great in "Lethal Weapon."

Do you think a psychologist with a passion for violent or violently funny comics would be dangerous?

Alvis W. Solis

Yes, Alvis, I do. So please understand that while you asked us to withhold your address, we were required by law to forward it to the local authorities. Do write us again just as soon as you've been re-situated.

Dear Larry, Mike, Ron and Co.,

As many long time comic fans are aware, stories about transsexual Ex-Nazi nuns have appeared so often in various comics, that such stories are almost cliche.

During the late 1940s you couldn't pick up a Superman comic book without seeing a story about transsexual, ex-Nazi nuns (such as the classic *Auction Comics* #89: "The Unholy Nun of Metropolis"). Soon Batman jumped on the bandwagon, ("The Papal Problems of The Penguin" in *Misleading Comics* #29) and Spider-Man ("Nun but the Brave" in *The Tangled Web of Spider-Man* #178) and the X-Men ("The X-Men versus the X-Nazi, Transsexual Nuns) in *Marvel Carfare* #12, #19, #26, #31-48, #51-213, and #219).

Fortunately, Mike was able to put a whole new twist on what has become one of the most overused plot devices in Badger #40. I don't think I've ever enjoyed a transsexual, ex-Nazi nun story as much as I did "Sister Twyster." I think it's high time that transsexual, ex-Nazi nuns are portrayed as heroes instead of villains and applaud Mike's effort toward humanizing these characters.

From the castration scene to the interrupted kitten sacrifice to the Badger with a bullwhip, the whole tale was handled with the spellbinding prose I've come to expect from Mike. Give Sister Twyster a bi-sexual, android mutant altar boy as a side-kick and then give her a mini-series.

The art was awesome (and I mean that in the classical sense and not as outdated California slang) and I can't wait for the next issue to hear the explanation of why the Badger was still on his feet after being shot in the right shoulder at point blank range with a gun that would have obviously taken his whole arm off.

I've got ten bucks that says you not only have an explanation, but it's a real doozy.

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, KS

You lose.

NEXT ISSUE: "Bloodsucker, Part Two" finds Badger, Ham and the Senator up to their fruitcups in vampires, and Daisy thinks she has met Mr. Right. By **Mike Baron** and **Ron Lim**.

– Larry Doyle

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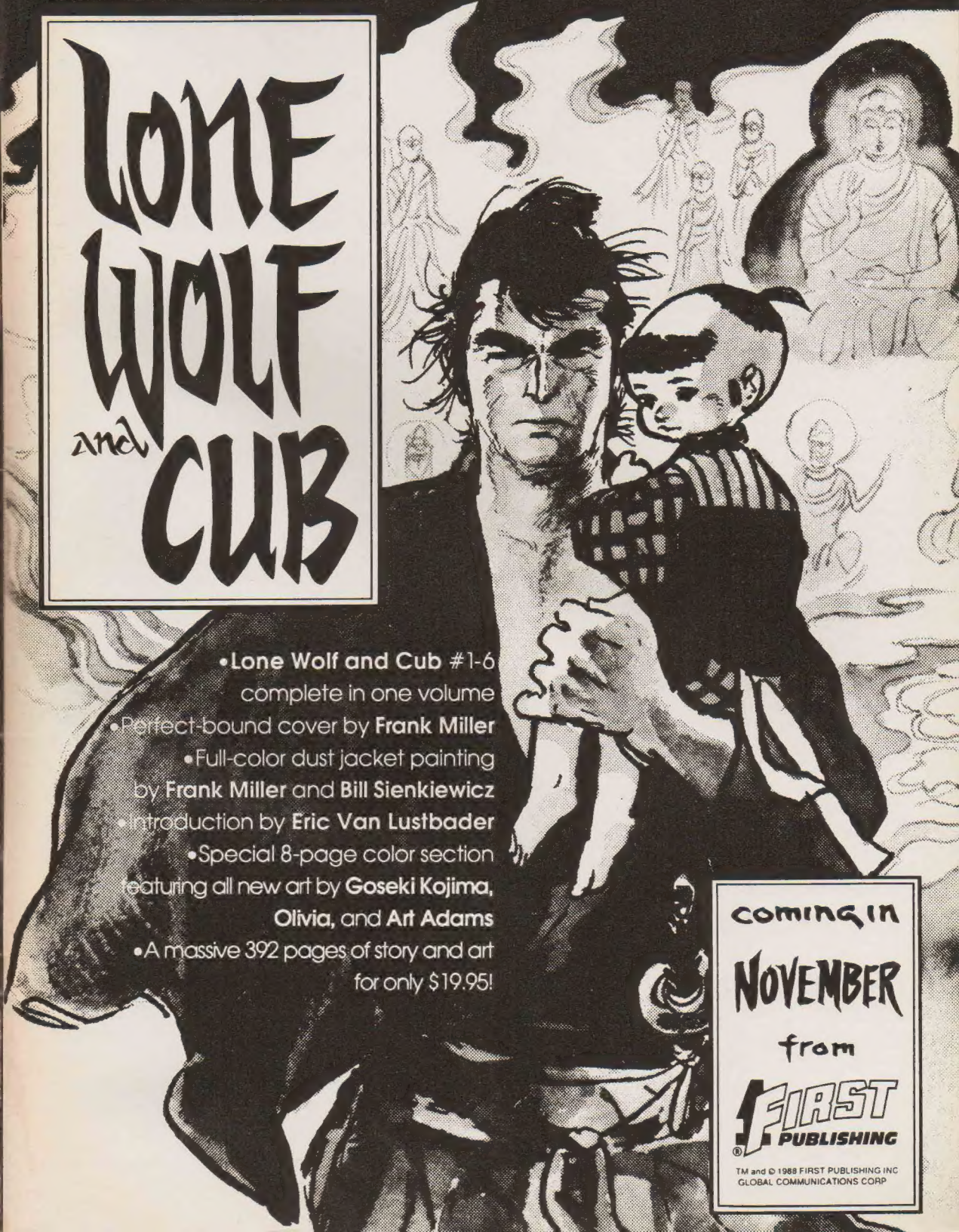

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